



Elder Abuse Indicator

The Michigan Incident Crime Reporting Unit started collecting elder abuse data in 2019. This indicator is included under the Victim Segment of the Incident Report.

Elder Abuse is an intentional act, or failure to act, by a caregiver or another person in a position involving an expectation of trust that causes or creates a risk or harm to an adult 60 years of age or older.

This includes physical, sexual, emotional, psychological, and financial abuse, neglect, or exploitation.

Who? Anyone can be a perpetrator of elder abuse including another adult/elder, a current or former legal spouse, other intimate partner, child, other family member/relative, a caregiver, friend, legal guardian, acquaintance, or stranger.

Where? Abuse can happen anywhere including a hospital, long or short-term care facilities, foster care home, personal residence, virtually, or over the phone.

Example 1:

- A 70-year-old man is disabled and dependent on his grandson for care. One day, they get into an argument and the grandson knocks his grandfather to the ground, fracturing his hip.
 - This **IS** elder abuse. The elderly man is dependent on his grandson for care (vulnerable), and there is an expectation of trust because the grandson is the caretaker.

Example 2:

- A 65-year-old woman lives independently and occasionally spends time with her granddaughter after school. While at the mall, the grandmother refuses to buy the granddaughter an expensive dress. The granddaughter pushes her grandmother into a display, bruising her shoulder.
 - This is **NOT** elder abuse. The grandmother is neither vulnerable nor dependent on her granddaughter for care.

Example 3:

- An 85-year-old man, with a documented diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease, gives his court appointed conservator \$1,000 a month to pay his online bills. His bills are only \$200.
 - This **IS** elder abuse. The man has a documented vulnerability and the court appointed conservator has a legal obligation (expectation of trust).

For more information, please see the state of Michigan's Elder Abuse Task Force page:

[Elder Abuse Brochure](#)